

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03340 132151Z

61

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

H-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-19

MC-02 AID-20 DRC-01 /115 W
----- 058645

R 132130Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1220

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3340

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, DR

SUBJECT: PROJECT TO DISARM AND SCRAP IN DOMREP US OBSOLETE AMMUNITION
STORED IN US

REF: SD 4607 NOVEMBER 10, 1973

1. PALACE PROTOCOL CHIEF, DR. HERMIDA, CAME TO SEE ME THIS MORNING, ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER HE SAID, TO INQUIRE AS TO STATUS OF SUBJECT PROJECT, I REPLIED THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MATTER WAS CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY IN DOD BASED UPON AN OFFICIAL REQUEST TO DOD FROM THE THEN DOMINICAN NAVAL ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON. AS FAR AS THE STATE DEPT WAS CONCERNED WE HAD AS FAR AS I KNEW RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE GODR NOR HAVE WE BEEN FORMALLY APPROACHED BY DOD FOR OUR VIEWS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, I TOLD HERMIDA THAT AT LEAST THESE CONSIDERATIONS WOULD BE PERTINENT TO ANY DECISION:
(1) THE STEPS THAT WERE TO BE TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THE PERSONNEL HANDLING SUCH AMMUNITION; (2) STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE AMMUNITION WOULD INDEED BE USED FOR SCRAP AND NOT FIND ITS WAY INTO THE WORLD MARKET; (3) STEPS TO PREVENT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM BEING CONTAMINATED; AND MOST IMPORTANTLY (4) ASSURANCES THAT THE GODR WOULD BE THE SOLE OR MAJOR BENEFICIARY OF THE PROJECT
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PAGE 02 SANTO 03340 132151Z

RATHER THAN SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO CAPITALIZED ON FRIENDSHIPS IN

DOMINICAN HIGH PLACES AND ONLY ALLOCATED TO THE DOMREP SOME MARGINAL BENEFITS FROM THE ENTERPRISE.

3. COMMENT: DR. HERMIDA, WHOSE POISED AND SUAVE MANNER MAKES HIM ALMOST A CLASSIC PROTOCOL CHIEF, WAS ILL AT EASE DURING THE CONVERSATION. ALTHOUGH HE MADE THE APPOINTMENT TO SEE ME "FOR PERSONAL REASONS", AS REPORTED HE SAID HE CAME AT THE PRESIDENT'S BEHEST. PERHAPS HE WAS JUST OVERWORKED FROM PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL.

4. A PALACE UNDERLING HAD TOLD ME A FEW DAYS AGO THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAD SIGNED A LETTER TO ME RECOMMENDING SUBJECT PROJECT. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUCH A LETTER AND HERMIDA'S DESIRE TO SEE ME MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY THE PRUDENT BALAGUER'S INTENT TO SMOKE OUT OUR POSSIBLE REACTION BEFORE SIGNING AND FORWARDING THE LETTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, HERMIDA AND IRVING DAVIDSON SEEM TO BE FAIRLY CLOSE.
HURWITCH

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